

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
SPECIAL SESSION  
MONDAY, JULY 30, 2012  
5:30P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7: 05p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival 7:15pm), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Council President Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms (excused absence), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson (excused absence), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Vincent Jones, City Administrator

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember motioned to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hardy seconded.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1 Volunteers of America (VOA)– 62<sup>nd</sup> Place Renovations**

- The VOA is requesting that the City grant them an easement over a portion of 62<sup>nd</sup> Pl. This request is being made because the bank that is financing the rehabilitation is requiring there to be a guarantee that the parking lot located within the 62<sup>nd</sup> Place right-of-way will remain for the residents. There are currently 47 parking spaces located in the right-of-way.
- Steve Sprecker, project manager, VOA reported they will be doing major renovations to the Eastern Avenue Apartments. Each unit will receive approximately \$43,000 in renovations. There will also be five (5) new handicapped units

- Councilman Yeargin asked how the renovations will affect the tenants. Mr. Sprecker stated that all resident furniture and belongings will be moved to the center of the units and they will work 8:30 am to 5:00 pm while many of the tenants are at work.
- There will also be installing high-efficient appliances so the residents will be experiencing reductions in the utility bills.
- Rick Della, VOA stated the project was built in 1945 and the records are only available in part. The area now is only 30 ft. 50 ft is needed for the easement. This would give the VOA the right to legally use the parking lot at each end for resident parking.
- Mayor Grant asked what was the plan for addressing the barrier area. He stated there is currently a lot of vagrancy back there and the foliage is such that the police have a hard time patrolling it.
- Mayor Grant added that he would like to see some environmental designing back there that would include landscaping and lighting
- Mr. Della stated he would be more than willing to talk with Mr. Thompson and someone in the police department about the safety issue.

### **3. LEGISLATION**

- 3.1. Resolution R-13-05 – Waiver of Competitive Bidding for City Center Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Councilman Yeargin motioned to accept R-13-05. Councilwoman Stephenson seconded. The resolution passed.

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **4.1. Public Safety Committee – Councilman Reveral Yeargin**

- Councilman Yeargin discussed the purchasing of the Police and Code Enforcement vehicles.
- He suggested that by taking the camera package out of the Code Enforcement vehicle the City could save about \$4,000.
- Mayor Grant stated that the city was continuously losing cases because we had no photos/video to back up the cases. He said they should at least have a laptop and camera instead of dashboard equipment.
- Mr. Jones stated the car originally designated for the Code Enforcer should not look like a police car and that's why they will be switching giving the Chief the dodge, which looks like the other police cars.
- Councilwoman Stephenson asked could we afford the cars. Bob stated there was \$491,000 in camera money

- Mayor Grant stated there are two ordinances on the table regarding the vehicle purchases so the previous ordinance needs to be modified. That ordinance was to purchase the Dodge for the Code Enforcement vehicle; however the Impala will now be purchased for that Department. So Ordinance O-13-03 needs to be re-written.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Approval of Purchase of Police Chief Vehicle
- 5.2 Resolution R-13-06 -Waiver of Competitive Bidding for Purchase of Code Enforcement Vehicle
- 5.3 Ordinance O-13-03- Purchase of Code Enforcement Vehicle – Budget Amendment 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- 5.4 Approval of Spending Authorization for Annual Speed Camera Report
- 5.5 Discussion of Public Notice for City Elections (Yeargin)
  - Councilman Yeargin thinks that the City should purchase election notices to be placed throughout the city. He added that since we have never done this it may be one of the reasons the city has such a low voter turnout.
  - He suggested some neon signs (yellow) that could say “It’s your right, it’s your duty”.
  - Mayor Grant stated he needed to let us know how many signs he would like to see before an order could be placed.
  - Councilman Porter stated the city could use the tent signs this time
  - Councilman Yeargin state two (2) 4’ x 8’ signs at \$150 each could be taken from the city promotion budget line item
  - Councilwoman Stephenson this information should have been brought before the council before tonight.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 6.1 Approval of the appointment of the Police Chief and compensation
  - Chris Cotillo is to tentatively start October 1, 2012.
  - He will have a starting salary of \$70,000 with a \$5,000 signing bonus and a police vehicle
  - Mayor Grant thinks the Council will be very pleased. He would like to plan a small reception for the Council to meet Mr. Cotillo
- 6.2. Easement Agreement for 62<sup>nd</sup> Place Redevelopment
  - Mr. Jones needs to insure that the Council’s Concerns regarding the easement are given to the city attorney.

- Mayor Grant would like to see the residents get parking stickers.
- The proposal by VOA requests that the City give them a 1-yr notice of their intent to terminate the easement in the event that it is determined the 62nd Place should be extended north toward Foote St. However, the Mayor stated that should only be 6 months.
- Also that barriers would be placed at the end of the property temporarily.
- The Council agreed to approve the request with the 6-month clause instead of one year along with the barrier improvement at the end of 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the renovation to the dumpster area.
- Councilman Yeargin motioned to approve with the above changes. Council member Stephenson seconded. All approved.

### 6.3. Approval of Economic Development Contract

- Mr. Jones received six (6) resumes. He recommended Sunny Cooper again.
- Councilman Yeargin feels strongly that the Council should hold off until after the city elections to choose the Economic Development Coordinator because the new members may have a different direction for the city as it relates to economic development.
- Councilman Porter doesn't think the council should delay the decision because candidates might take another job.
- Councilman Porter thinks the city should use more than one economic developer like the grant positions
- Mayor Grant stated the delineation in the grant process was stipulated but not for the Economic Development position. We wanted multiple grant writers who were multi-talented in Federal, State and County grants.
- Councilmember Stephenson asked what would they be doing if they came on board now. Mr. Jones stated working on the Master Plan, Branding, a template for the City Website, Redevelopment Plans for MLK, and home demolition.
- Councilman Higgs asked had permission been granted to demolish the houses in question. Mr. Jones said not yet.
- Councilman Higgs asked were the properties up for sale and had a description been sent to a realtor. Mr. Jones said no.
- Councilwoman Stephenson asked were we obligated to keep the current Economic Developer at this point. Mr. Jones said no it is an "at will" contract.

- Councilwoman Stephenson asked what had the Economic Development person done. Mr. Jones stated she had been doing research on Sustainable Community information, an RFP for the Master Plan. Councilwoman Stephenson asked did she meet the goal deadlines. Mr. Jones said yes.
- Councilman Yeargin asked had she brought in any money. Mr. Jones stated a baseline evaluation needed to be done first.
- Mayor Grant stated that the City is at a very critical junction as far as economic development was concerned. It did not just include Kratos, but Dr. Baig's property as well. The question was whether the recommendation was the right one for the City's needs.
- Mayor Grant asked like the applicants for the police chief, what ranking process did Mr. Jones use to make his selection. Only the perusal of the resumes was used.
- Councilmember Hardy motioned to accept the recommendation for the Economic Developer. Councilman member Stephenson seconded.

#### 6.4 Approval of Grant Writer Contracts

- Councilman Yeargin asked how would the three (3) grant writer's work. Mr. Jones stated the grants that the city wants to apply for would be mapped out between them.
- The writers would be given an hourly rate based on the time they work on the grant.
- Porter asked Mr. Jones to check with other cities to see how they track the work of their grant writer.
- Porter stated we need to rank them on what they're doing after one month, two months, etc.
- Stephenson stated there is a tracking system in place it is just not utilized.
- Councilwoman Stephenson motioned to accept the Grant writer contract. Councilman Higgs seconded. All approved.

#### 6.5 Update on Farmers' Market

- Three (3) farmers and three (3) vendors have been confirmed
- Mayor asked had it been advertised, Mr. Jones said no but that it was in the Gazette. Mayor pointed out that the Gazette isn't being distributed as much now.
- Mr. Jones asked the Council if they wanted to delay the event. Councilman Porter did not. A meeting needs to be had with the market master.

- Mayor asked if you were a farmer and only 20 people showed up would you come back?
- Councilman Higgs was against postponing it at first. However, he attended another farmer's market which was very successful so he wants to see Seat Pleasant's done in a big way. Mayor wants church's, senior buildings, etc. notified.
- The Council decided to move the Farmer's market from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Porter asked could we use the tent signs.
- Mr. Jones stated the push signs were on order and the city would be paying for the event banner.
- The National Night Out is the same day as the Farmers' Market August 9<sup>th</sup>. The council decided to combine them and hold both events on the old police lot.
- The Council asked Mr. Jones to send out flyers to residents.
- Mr. Della stated they need the decision by August 30<sup>th</sup> so they can start construction in September.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**7.1. Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 3, 2012, City Offices Closed**

**7.2. City Council Work Session, Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

**7.3. City Elections, Monday, September 10, 2012**

**7.4. City Center Groundbreaking Ceremony, Goodwin Park**

- Councilmember Stephenson stated on August 22<sup>nd</sup> she will be hosting another Crime Prevention meeting at the 6810 Greig St. in the community room. This event is for all wards.

**8. ADJOURN-** The meeting was adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,



Kyrthlyn J. Rhoda  
Administrative Assistant  
(In absence of City Clerk)

APPROVED 10/08/12